Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): If the Government are to draw a scheme as Mr. Iyyunni has suggested they must be prepared for starting dispensaries for Vaduthala and Thevara which have got population of ten thousand. Further, for the people of Thevara to come to Ernakulam they have even to cross a river. We should consider also that the money on medical aid has mounted from 70 thousand to about 5½ lakhs within the last few years. How far can the State go? Can it go on giving the whole revenue of Cochin State for dispensaries and starve the Education, Public, etc., departments? Under these circumstances Government cannot accept the resolution not because they are not sympathetic but because of the want of funds.

The resolution was put and seemed lost.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): A poll, Sir.

POLL.

Ayes.	*Noes.*
Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon	Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar
Mr. C. V. Iyyu	,, K. Achyuta Menon
,, A. Eachara Menon	,, P. J. George
,, A. V. Moothedan	,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja
,, K. R. Viswambharan	,, K. V. Menon
,, K. M. Ibrahim	Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao
,, V. K. Krishnankutty	Mr. T. Narayana Menon
,, N. V. Subbarayan Chettiar.	,, M. K. Raman
,, K. P. Vallon	Rao Sahib I. N. Menon
,, V. K. Kutty	Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
,, K. S. Panicker	Rama Varmha Tampuran
,, K. R. Ramakrishnan	

12 for and 11 against.

The resolution was carried.

20. Uniform scale of salary for Clerks.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): *This Council recommends to Government that clerks working in the several departments of the public service including the Registration Department should be given a uniform scale of salary.*

Sir, hitherto it has been my impression that there were backward classes in human society alone. But now I have seen that there are backward clerks in Government service also. The Registration department is considered to be inferior to other Government Departments. The salary for clerks in that department is graded Rs. 25—30. We were asking for the last

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

three years why these clerks alone are given this reduced salary when they turn out the same amount of work, when they have got the same intelligence, industry and commonsense as those in other departments. There should be some reason for giving such a reduced salary for these people. A similar motion came before the House on 13th December 1935, and it was passed unanimously. There were similar proposals in the previous years also. In my opinion it is a grave injustice done to the clerks of that department. It is high time that the Government should rectify this mistake. Apart from this, there is another reason. Very recently there was an amendment to the Registration Act. As a result of that, the revenue from this Department has increased and there is no reason why these clerks should not be given an increased salary. Further the work in the Registry offices has become more difficult with the increase of Joint Stock Companies in the State. So many returns have to be filed. All this work is done in the department by these clerks. They have to do correspondence work as in the case of other clerks. I am unable to see why these clerks alone are given smaller salaries. So I request that the Government should take immediate steps to redress this grievance and bring about unanimity so far as the salaries of the clerks concerned.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Will the hon'ble member be satisfied if the Government reduce the salary of the clerks of the other departments also for bringing about a unanimity?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): In the case of low paid officers like the clerks I do not think, it is possible to reduce their salaries but we can reduce the salaries of highly paid officers. I am surprised to find my friend asking such a question.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): I second the resolution.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): So far these clerks in the Registration department are concerned I think there is some misapprehension as regards the nature of their functions when compared to the functions of the other clerks in the several other departments. Most of these so-called clerks are but copyists. Before 1105 that is before the appointment of the Special Finance Committee to go into the question of standardisation of salaries, the pay of these so-called clerks was Rs. 20. It was as a result of the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee that it was raised to the grade of Rs. 25 to 30. Now

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

there are three grades, 25—30, 25—40 and 40 to 60. Most o the people drawing 25 to 30 are merely copyists and are doing malayalam copying work. They say that they must also get the same salary as the clerks who are doing the duties of real clerks. Their demand does not very much appeal to Government. It is not that the Government stand in the way of bettering their prospects. This question came several times before the Government and the Government have also considered it in all its aspects. Government found that the income from the Registration Department was going down. There are several Registry Offices which are not self-supporting at present. Do you want to abolish those offices or keep to the present standard of pay. If the offices are abolished there will be a hue and cry because that will be an inconvenience to the people of the locality. The only possibility to make both ends meet is to keep their pay as it is now.

There was a suggestion to increase the fees with reference to some receipts and other documents. Government considered that also. Government did not find its way to increase the fee as proposed by the departmental Head because that also will raise a lot of complaint from the people. From this year onwards we have however effected a slight increase in fees on some documents. It was found that in order to give effect to this proposal as a whole, there will be a recurring commitment on the part of the Government to the extent of 8 thousand rupees. It is impossible for the Government to commit itself to that huge expenditure until the revenue of the department also proportionately increases. We do not know how far our expectations of increase will be justified. We are now watching this change and we want to watch it for some time more before we take up the question of increasing the pay. I do not make any promise so far as the clerks also are concerned. There are now two grades, 25 to 40, and 40 to 60 so far as the Head clerks are concerned. The Government are now seriously considering whether to some extent at least that distinction may not be abolished. Even for that we want money. We are now watching how far the modification in the rules will bring about a change in the revenue. The Department as it stands now is not a self-supporting department so that it is not possible for the Government to hold out any definite promise.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): On a point of information. Whether copyists in the Munsiffs' Court and District Courts get the same pay as those in the Registration Department.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*) : They get less, only Rs. 20.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിനു ആദായമുണ്ടാകുന്നതായ ഏതെങ്കിലും വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ഫ്രഞ്ച് മുതൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കണ്ണൻ നായർ: അതാണ് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്. ചില വ്യവസ്ഥകളെല്ലാം ഉണ്ടാക്കിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എത്രത്തോളം പണം അതിൽനിന്നു കിട്ടുമെന്നു് ഒരുകൊല്ലം കഴിയാതെ ഒന്നും പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Is not a percentage of the undergraduate clerks now given promotion as Registrars?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): Not exactly that, some of the Head clerks are put in charge of Registrars' duties.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): When permanent vacancies of District Registrars come up, are not these undergraduates given promotion?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): Only graduates are given permanent posts of Registrars.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Are not these clerks doing indexing work? Is it mere copying that they do?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): That is done only by Head clerks.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Can I take it that the Government are inclined to do something with regard to the Head clerks?

Mr. K. P.Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): Government are seriously considering that question. Let us see how far the new modifications bring about a change in the revenue.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Sir, the first argument advanced by Government was the very same time honoured argument, that is to say, they are doing only copyists' work. That argument I do not think now holdswater. The second point is as regards the financial commitment involved in the scheme. With regard to that the hon'ble Government member has given me some ray of hope that with the increase of revenue anticipated under the new rules their question will be favourably considered. Therefore I think it is not necessary to press for a division on this resolution. I may be allowed to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

The House stood adjourned sini die at 4-55 p. m.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly